

THE DEVELOPMENT-SECURITY NEXUS:

Threat or opportunity for the developing South?

¹MBONGENI NGULUBE

Page | 1

ABSTRACT:

Since inception, the development industry has evolved within adverse geopolitical conditions, most acutely, the Cold War. Various accounts, particularly post-development literature, assert that the discourse of war was displaced onto the social domain and to a new geographical terrain via 'the war on poverty' (Escobar, 1995). While there is increasing interest in the security discourse within the humanitarian/emergency fad, particularly since the 911 attacks, most accounts suggest that this shift skews development practice. However, when analysed within the East – West development axis, I argue that the glove of benevolence is rolling back to reveal an 'iron fist'. Exacerbated by the economic crisis, appearance of the BRICS and dominance of Chinese 'soft power', it serves to undress other forms of Western 'insecurity'. In Europe, Merkel employs the spectre of war to achieve support for the rescue fund announcing perhaps the arrival of force as 'politics of last resort'. In the cooperation arena, the Western agenda is becoming blatant, revealed in the launch of Africa Command (AFRICOM) by the US, followed by the UK, including traditionally benign states like Canada and Denmark. While this shift is seen as a threat for development outcomes in the South, few accounts have contemplated the opportunities contained in the slippery slope presented by the development-security nexus. If development is exposed as Western insecurity rather than Southern assistance; what opportunity does this present for Southern States? Can the so called radicalised states like Zimbabwe and Venezuela perhaps point a justified re-direction of development focus in the bid for self determined improvement?

[Keywords: terrorism, geopolitics, radicalised states; post-development]

¹ Mbongeni Ngulube is a Zimbabwean researcher at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium. Email: mngulube@gmail.com

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allen, T., & Styan, D.** (2000). The Right to Interfere? Benard Kouchner and the New Humanitarianism. *Journal of International Development*. 12 , 825-842.
- Auvinen, J., & Wayne Nafziger, E.** (1999). The Sources of Humanitarian Emergency. *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 43, No. 3 , 267-290.
- Beall, J., Goodfellow, T., & Putzel, J.** (2006). Discourse of Terrorism, Security and Development. *Journal of International Development*. 18 , 51-67.
- Cooke, B., & Kothari, U.** (2001). The Case of Participation as Tyranny. In B. Cooke, & U. Kothari (Eds.), *Participation: the new tyranny?* (pp. 1-15). London: Zed Books.
- Escobar, A.** (1995). *Encountering Development: The making and unmaking of the Third World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Fassin, D., & Pandolfi, M.** (2000). Introduction. Military and Humanitarian Government in the Age of Intervention. In D. Fassin, & M. Pandolfi (Eds.), *Contemporary States of Emergency: the politics of military and humanitarian intervention* (pp. 9-28). New York: Zone Books (MIT Press).
- Hickey, S.** (2009). The return of politics in development studies I : getting lost within the poverty agenda? . *Progress in Development Studies* 8 , 349-358.
- Kaminski, A.** (2010). *Radical islands in a sea of Western democracy: A comparison of Zimbabwe and Venezuela*. Consultancy Africa Intelligence.
- McFalls, L.** (2000). Belevolent Dictatorship: The Formal Logic of Humanitarian Government. In D. Fassin, & M. Pandolfi (Eds.), *Contemporary States of Emergency: the politics of military and humanitarian intervention* (pp. 317-335). New York: Zone Books (MIT Press).
- Moyo, S., & Yeros, P.** (2007). The Radicalised State: Zimbabwe's interrupted revolution. *Review of African Political Economy Vol No.111* , 103-121.
- Nederveen Pieterse, J.** (2000). After post-development. *Third World Quartely*, Vol 21, No 2, 175-191.
- Peet, R., & Hartwick, E.** (1999). *Theories of Development*. New York: The Guilford Press.
- Weil, C.** (2001). The Protection-Neutrality Dilemma in Humanitarian Emergencies: Why the Need for Military. *International Migration Review*, Vol. 35, No. 1 , 79-116.